

# CLAN MACKAY SOCIETY

## BRATACH BHAN

Message from Mrs Elizabeth Roads, LVO, Snawdoun Herald and Clerk to the Court of the Lord Lyon.



**Elizabeth Ann Roads, LVO  
Clerk of the Court  
of the Lord Lyon.**

"I so much enjoyed my evening with you and the friendly welcome. I am only sorry I did not have time to spend longer speaking to the society members and I hope my fairly early departure did not seem unfriendly. I had a busy day ahead and had to be in Stirling in uniform early in the morning to Walk the Marches.

With my warm good wishes to you and the other society members and thank you so much for the beautiful flowers – still going strong."

*Elizabeth Ann Roads*

**The Clan Mackay Society's AGM was held in the Hon Elizabeth's home in Moray Place in December 2014. This report was presented there and plans made for our next Council, January Festive Lunch and a summer outing to South Queensferry to see the work going on the New Forth Crossing.**

**Details of these occasions can be obtained from Secretary Fions Smith at**

**<[fionasmith304@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:fionasmith304@yahoo.co.uk)>**



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## ◆ PRESIDENT'S FOREWORD [HON ELIZABETH FAIRBAIRN]



**THANK YOU  
ELIZABETH  
FOR YOUR  
SPLENDID  
LEADERSHIP &  
ENCOURAGEMENT  
TO THE SOCIETY**

*The Hon Elizabeth Fairbairn*

**We had a quiet but successful year supported by Fiona Mackay Smith taking over from the late Ian as our secretary. Our dinner and summer outing to Dumfries House were led by William A Mackay (Peru) and his committee of Fiona Mackay Smith and Sandra Mackay. I have been helped by the enthusiasm of John Mackay, our Treasurer, W.Alex Mackay, our Seannachaidh and Colin Mackay our Editor of the Bratach Bhan to whom are due our warmest thanks.**

**BRATACH BHAN 2014 2015**



The highlight of the Society's year was undoubtedly the Clan Dinner. Our speaker was the Snawdoun Herald, Elizabeth Roads whose address is given later in this issue. [on pages 5-6]. This was closely followed by the Summer Outing to Dumfries House arranged by Willian Mackay, 'Peru'

## EDITORIAL D.COLIN MACKAY

No longer can the society afford to print and post copies to the large circulation of members in so many countries. For a number of years we have made the Bratach Bhan available on our web-site and this continues. Thanks are due to Fiona Mackay Smith, our new secretary and David Hart our Web Master for enabling new your council to continue making contact with so many friends in this way. The address is

**[clanmackaysociety.org](http://clanmackaysociety.org)**

It is a pleasure for me in the Editor's Chair for this edition of our electronic newsletter, which continues to be entitled the *Bratach Bhan*, the *White Banner of the Clan Mackay*. As always contributions to the newsletter are required and most welcome,

**On behalf of my nephew Lord Aneas ,our new Chief and myself I send warmest Christmas greetings to all members and friends , who are proud to bear the name of Mackay.**

**MANU FORTI**



**◆ THE MAIN OFFICE-BEARERS OF THE SOCIETY**

Chief	Aeneas Mackay, Lord Reay	London
Hon President	The Hon Elizabeth Fairbairn MBE	Edinburgh
Vice President	D. Colin Mackay MBE	Edinburgh
Seanachaidh	W. Alex Mackay	Edinburgh
Hon Grabhalair	William C Mackay	Linlithgow Bridge
Secretary	Fiona Mackay Smith	Edinburgh
Treasurer	John S. Mackay	Linlithgow
Editor of Bratach Bhan	D. Colin Mackay	Edinburgh
Council Members		
Shiona Mackay, Ghillelan Mackay, Willie Mackay ("Peru"), Sandra Mackay, Stuart Mackay (Wales), Roderick J. Mackay,		

Bursary Trustees  
D. Colin Mackay, Ghillelan Mackay, John S. Mackay (Treasurer)

Social Committee Fiona Mackay Smith, Sandra Mackay, Willie Mackay (Peru)  
Web Master David Hart

Honorary Standard Bearer Kyle Mackay, Edinburgh  
Bratach Bhan Standard Bearer Roderick Mackay, Carlisle  
Honorary Pipers. Carol Ann Mackay (Ross) Valerie Mackay (Sutherland), Stewart Mackay (Alness)

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Sir William Mackay, KCB.

formerly, Clerk to the House of Commons

### **FIND THE LADY**

It's well known that Eric, seventh Lord Reay, sold his estate to the Sutherlands in 1829. For years he had lived in the heart of fashionable London, and even with a salary from what would now be termed a merchant bank plus the rent from his estate, he lived above his means. He gambled heavily, at the card-table and on the race-track. He was a dandy: at a royal levee in 1807 he appeared in a rich purple velvet dress coat and breeches lined with rich white satin and a white satin waistcoat embroidered with silk. He swaggered, narrowly escaping a duel in Hyde Park with a gentleman whose nose he had threatened to pull at Mrs Dupre's masquerade in Hanover Square.

As a result, by 1816 Eric owed £80,000, eight times his gross yearly rental. What was worse, his rents then sank to £7500 a year, with no hope of improvement in the post-war depression. In 1825, he had to borrow £100,000, from the Sutherlands. It was soon clear that he could not meet the repayments: sale became

unavoidable. Independent surveys put the value of the estate at about £240,000, but Eric knew how keenly the Sutherlands wanted the land. He asked £300,000 - £11million at today's prices - and got it, though after clearing his debts he walked away with little over half. Some of us have experienced the delight of unexpectedly meeting a friend from home in the streets of London. Perhaps Eric did too, until one day after the sale he ran into William Aberach, an old packman. 'Bhuill Uilleam, de do naigheachd a Duthaich mhic Aoidh?' Well, William, what's your news from the Reay Country? The old man's pain is unmistakeable still. "Sin an duthaich nach 'eil'. There is no such country any more.

There is another side to the story.

Evander Mclvor one of the factors on the Sutherland estate, said that extravagance was not the only reason for the sale. Eric, though, unmarried was bringing up a daughter.



## FIND THE LADY [continued] Sir William Mackay KCB

When McIvor dined with Eric, Erica presided as mistress of the house, and the story McIvor tells is that Erica could not legally inherit the estate. But if Eric sold it he might use the proceeds to get her into "society". In that he succeeded spectacularly. Erica Catherine Mackay, born illegitimate in 1818 and married off at the age of seventeen. Died the widow of a baronet and the mother of a future Earl who was Master of the Household to that arch-snob, Edward VII. I have a photograph of Erica.

Erica Catherine looks a very assured Victorian matron.

I've not traced the origins of Catherine North, Erica's mother. All I have come across is an unsourced statement that she was born in 1787. Lord Eric was undoubtedly Erica's father: he admitted it in the baptismal register, though he concealed

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his title. Their relationship was more than feeting, because in 1819 the couple had Eric, who presumably died soon afterwards. By January 1825 they had parted, because Catherine (three months pregnant) then married Thomas Holcroft, a journalist, the son of a playwright-actor-novelist whose radical views had landed him in court on a charge of high treason. After her husband's death, Holcroft's mother married another dramatist. With so much theatre in the background, perhaps Catherine was an actress. A liaison of that kind would certainly be consistent with the rest of Eric's conduct in London. Eric made a modest provision for Catherine and her sisters in his will, though he had plainly lost touch with them. I haven't traced her death, but she isn't in the 1841 census: was she perhaps dead?



**Sir William Mackay KCB**

***Sir William McKay formerly Clerk of the House of Commons, between 1998 and 2002. Portrait was done by Norman Edgar, of the House of Commons collection. His family, who are McKay McInlays, come variously from Achtoty, Blandy and Strathmore-skerray, and Tongue. The portrait is now in the Mackay Room Strathnaver.***



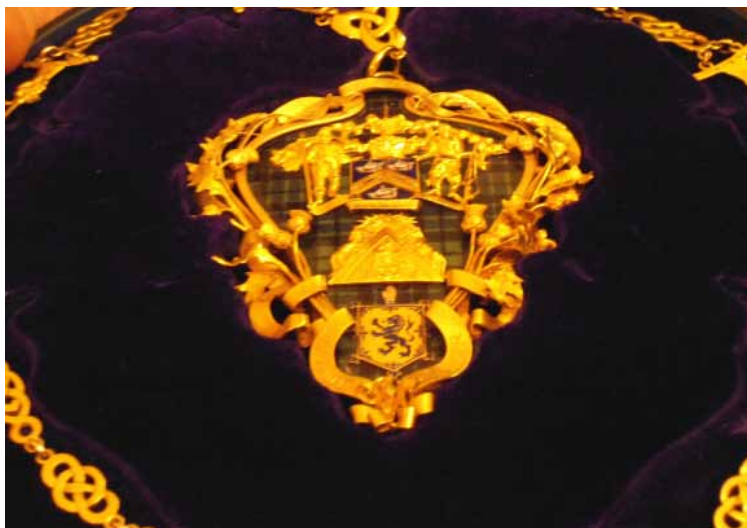
◆ THE CLAN MACKAY DINNER  
THE ROYAL SCOTS CLUB

*BRATACH BHAN*

**2014 2015**



The Society's Annual Dinner held in the Royal Scots Club in Edinburgh was a most enjoyable affair.



The Chain of Office of the President was worn by the Hon Ekizabeth aunt of the present Chief, Aeneas 14th Lord Reay





## ◆ THE SEANACHAIDH'S YEAR 2014 [W. ALEX MACKAY] - 1

Earlier this year I had to identify a photograph in the Am Bratach magazine of a group of men standing on the pier close to Tongue Summerhouse. They were, of course, a party of past and future-Presidents of the Clan Mackay Society on their 1902 visit to Sutherland and they were waiting to cross on the Achuvoldrach Ferry to Melness. In the days before the Causeway was built, if you did not have horse, the alternative to the wait till the ferryboat arrived from the other side was a thirteen mile walk through Tongue, round by Kinloch and on to Melness House. It was exciting in my now distant youth to wander through that magnificent scenery finding our historical sites and places which had been the focus of Ceilidh stories. Stray off the road, however, and you were lured into a feeding paradise where ravenous swarms of midges, clegs, and ticks hovered in anticipation. Lingering at the pier to cross the 1262 yards of the Kyle by boat then became attractive.

Even in our earliest history Mackays were travelling folk Sutherland was a temporary stopover for many of them and, when possible, journeying by coastal sea and loch appears to have been their transport of choice. In the Mackay Institutional Memory (MIMP) Data Base there are at least a dozen theories about the origin of the Mackays. The one I favour tells how the Gaelic nobles in Moray kept trying to create their own realms outwith the control of King Alexander 2nd. The most determined of the Moray Gaels were the McWilliams and their kinsmen the MacHeths. Their rebellion in 1215 was



***The croft of the author at is at Braetongue. looking down on the Kyle.***

suppressed and the MacHeths (who later were identified as the Mackays), were Fleming and Norman knights, who upheld the Feudal hierarchy. These original Mackay immigrants, whether they came to Durness directly from Moray or after stopping off in Thurso to pick up the Bishop's daughter, most likely reached there by sea. The Mackay's preference for water travel is borne out by scores of entries in the Data Base of their descendants travelling locally and to the South by river, loch and coastal sea which till the 19th century were the superhighways.

For years, I heard about ferry families but it never occurred to me to ask about the ferry services. So I started this Seanachaidh's Year with no idea what boats were used or if the ferry ran on an ad hoc basis or had a fixed timetable or even did they carry freight and animals or only passengers.



**◆ THE SEANACHAIDH'S YEAR 2014 [w. ALEX MACKAY] - 2**

The philosophy underpinning the Mackay Memory is that its individual entries may not be interesting, but taken together with an amalgam of facts, drawn from around two hundred sources of public and private archived data, as well as from stories, correspondence and publications gives us more than a snapshot of township affairs as well as social activities and genealogies. I decided to find out if the Data Base could tell me more about the Tongue ferry. Some ferry references though local were not relevant. In the Ground Officer Tongue Labour Report for 1827, for example, there was a bill for thirteen journeys to Eilean Comb [Neave] at 2/6 per ferry to carry tenants from Clashaidy, Skerray, Tubeg, Skerraybeg and Clashbuie to tend their animals.

I felt if it was a public service the ferries would be under some form of administrative control, so I checked the Estate Management Papers and found Major Donald Forbes, the Tacksman of Melness, wrote to the Court of the Justices of Peace saying he had heard that complaints about the irregularity of the Tongue ferry had come to the Court's attention so he bound himself, for as long as he was living at Melness, to keep a ferry boat at Achuvoldrach as well as a ferryman there to serve the public. If he failed to do so he agreed to be fined as law directs. True to his word, Forbes appointed Angus Mackay of Borscaig as the first official ferryman.

Angus served for seventeen years.

Specifications for a ferry pier in Tongue were also drawn up in 1818, but it was another fourteen years before work on it began. The JPs, however, went ahead and set the Tariff for three classes of freight Livestock, Goods and Passengers. This answered my question about what the ferry could carry. Such diverse traffic obviously would require a reasonably sized sailing boat but I was unable to find any mention of it. In the 1832 Durness Accounts, however, John Macdonald was paid £40 for building a boat and riggings for the Erribol Ferry. Judging from the items in the Price Tariff a similar vessel would be required for Tongue.

The Schedule of Charges set the same charge of 6d to hire the boat for one person or for a cartload of Goods or for a hogshead of Beer or Whisky. For 3d you could ship a Saddle Horse. It cost you 2d for a Garron. a Cow or a small Horse with a load. The charge for each calf, sheep, lamb or sow was one halfpenny. If there were more than one passenger each would be charged one penny, but if there were less than six, the minimum hire fee would be sixpence. If the crossing was between 10pm and 4am between 1st October and 1st April the minimum tariff was sixpence halfpenny.





◆ **THE SEANACHAIDH'S YEAR 2014 [W. ALEX MACKAY] - 3**

It was expected that ferrymen would be attentive and assist passengers by carrying their goods, parcels and packages. Any ferryman, who failed in their duty, would be prosecuted at the expense of the County upon information being lodged with the clerk of Peace or police.

This tariff was used for many years without being updated which prompted a tale about how advancing technology caused one ferryman pricing difficulties. When the first bicyclist turned up at the Tongue Ferry, he dismounted and carried his bike on board. When he reached the Melness side, he pushed the bike up the hill towards Ferryfield. As the passenger had arrived riding on the cycle, the ferryman thought he should charge the bike as a saddle horse, but he carried it on board he reckoned charging it as freight could be more appropriate. When he saw it being pushed up the hill, he decided it should be charged as a cartload.

The Sutherland Estate funded the infrastructure and started by building the Ferry Pier at Tongue. This cost £178.10/. The suppliers of individual items were named in the accounts so we know that in 1832 William and John Munro supplied the pick shafts, carried out the mason work at a cost of £69.2.5, provided the quarry stones for £34.4.2 and built the pier for £58.3.10. Andrew Ross the blacksmith, and Catechism, in Rhitongue was paid £1 0.3.8 for repairing tools and £4.9.11 for loading stones.

The next problem was how potential passengers could let the ferrymen, based over at Melness, know they were waiting to be picked up at Tongue. The solution was to build Signal House and wave flags during the day and light lanterns at night to summon the ferryboat. The tradesmen who built the pier were also employed on the Signal House. Donald Munro painted the window, door and chimney. Hugh Macdonald was paid 10/- for two stoves. Angus Ross a merchant in Aberdeen supplied two signal lanterns and five flags, ropes and eight bushed stocks. Although, a year earlier, the estate had begun to provide tenants building White houses with slates, the Shelter House was thatched.

The accounts for November 1831 imply that building the Mound at Tongue Ferry was dreich work as the labourers were not only paid in cash but Kenneth Munro, (then a clerk in Tongue House), was given £6 to supply them with twelve gallons of Whisky. His price was 10/- a gallon. Kenneth, ten years later was the publican running the Tongue Village inn. The cold weather continued into January so the workmen building Achuvoldrach Road were given eight gallons by George Gordon who charged 8/- a gallon. It looks as though the cost of drinking was lower on the Melness side.

*See also note on Page 22 of this edition.*



**◆ THE SEANACHAIDH'S YEAR 2014 [W. ALEX MACKAY] - 4**

Each year tenants were charged sixpence to cover the maintenance of the Signal House, although some townships in Tongue only paid three pence while West Strathan paid one shilling. There were plenty incidents reported of Summons being issued to tenants who failed to pay the Signal House money ... The ferryman who succeeded Angus was George Mackay who had distinguished descendants as well as ancestors. He married Janet, a daughter of the Aberach Neil Mackay of Achimore which lies on the banks of Loch Dherue just west of Ben Loyal. Their daughter Henrietta married John Cameron 14 schoolmaster in Achnahugh and their great grandson Neil joined the RAF at break of war in 1939. He rose to the rank of Air Chief Marshall and was a great favourite of Margaret Thatcher as well as her Chief of the Defence Staff. George the ferryman died suddenly in 1841 and his widow and son Neil took over the Chain Boat Ferry at Hope in Dumess. That ferry ran until the first bridge was built over Hope River in 1906. Twenty five years after moving to Hope Neil became very well-known and admired by his fellow clansmen. In 1865 Queen Victoria felt she had to express her admiration (or kilted highlanders so she commissioned Kenneth McLeay to paint portraits of representative of the principal Highland Clans. Twenty five years after moving to Hope Neil became very well-known and admired by his fellow clansmen.

On a visit to Tongue, McLeay selected Neil the ferryman of Hope, to epitomise the Mackays. He painted him and a Clan Sutherland duo against a background of Ben Loyal. Neil and his forefathers of were famed for their good looks, manliness and strength and locally, he was recognised as a descendent of Donald 1st Lord Reay youngest son, Charles,

1st Chief of the Sandwoods as well as of Lord Reay's brother, John 1st Chieftain of the Strathy Branch.

On a visit to Tongue, McLeay selected Neil, the ferryman of Hope, to epitomise the Mackays. He painted him and a Clan Sutherland duo against a background of Ben Loyal. Neil and his forefathers of were famed for their good looks, manliness and strength and locally, he was recognised as a descendent of Donald 1st Lord Reay's youngest son, Charles, 1st Chief of the Sandwoods as well as of Lord Reay's brother, John 1st Chieftain of the Strathy Branch. When he died Neil left £800 to his niece, Georgina and she used the legacy to establish a boarding house in Ferry Road, Edinburgh. For many years, these were the digs of choice for folk from Tongue when they first arrived in Edinburgh looking for work. My father and three of his brothers lived there when first they came south after the Great War.

***See Photographs on  
Pages 15 and 16***



## THE CLAN MACKAY INSTITUTIONAL MEMORY PROJECT MIMP

The Clan Mackay Institutional Memory Project.

***Cuimhnich air na daoine o'nd'thanig thu - Remember the men from whom you have come.***

Until the 1940s, our knowledge of Mackay history in most cases was derived from the genealogical based volumes published by Robert and the Rev. Angus or in the manuscripts of Alexander of Blackcastle or John Mackay of Rockfield. The Reay Papers, family documents and traditional tales were their prime sources but their main assumption appeared to be one's place in the history of the Mackays depended upon being a known member of a Branch of our Clan. These, [the descendants of the sons of Chiefs], were traditionally designated by the name of the lands initially granted for their support though their possession of these estates usually did not last for many generations

Many of the descendants of Branch chieftams who were known and recognised locally were not mentioned in the published genealogies. As these significant emissions began to be highlighted by the new information continuously becoming available in archives throughout the world, my father William John, initiated the Mackay Memory Project in the 1950s when he was the Clan Seanachaidh and I continued it after his death in 1965. The objective of the multi-phased Mackay Institutional Memory Project, [MIMP], was to revise amend extend and update the History of the Mackays as well as the genealogies of the Chiefs and its recognised Branches

Our purpose has never been to provide a genealogical service, but all Mackays, and not just those identified as belonging to its Branches, were part of our Clan.s past and were entitled to have their role in its economic, social and military history recorded One approach we used to accomplish this has been by emphasising another traditional grouping within the Clan, namely that of the Families They were identified by their patronymic - which normally referred back to the Family's patriarch. such as the McRories, or it could relate to a physical characteristic such as Roy alluding to their red hair.

**See note on page 22 of this edition of the Bratach Bhan.**

Though some Families were descended from the younger sons of the Chiefs or Chieftains the use of a patronymic to distinguish one family group from another was never the prerogative of the Chief of Mackay. That this continues to be the case is confirmed by the reunions of so many new Mackay Families being organised throughout the world.

As one of the first steps to providing a more comprehensive history and genealogy of the Clan, the MIMP has been collecting the genealogies and histories of Family groups and, where possible, integrating them with those of the Chiefs and the Branches. The essential criterion is that blood, through other male or female descent, is the sole qualification for being a member of a Branch or a Family An important corollary of recognising female descent is that, simultaneously, one can be a member of several Families and Branches. It also implies that members of the same Branches and Families can belong to Clan Associations or Societies in different countries. This network, of plurality of links, should inevitably strengthen our sense of belonging to the Clan. The future of our Clan may be envisaged as an informal Federation formed by these emerging Mackay groupings within the present country associations integrated and unified under the Chief of our name.

An important aspect of the MIMP has been its creation of a Data Base of all the records naming those living in each township in the parishes associated with the Mackays, in the 300 years between 1600 mid 1900. Primarily this was a study in Longitudinal Historical Demography. At present, there are tens of thousand entries in the MIMP database. The data for both Fair and Tongue are reasonably comprehensive and work progresses on the other parishes, particularly those of Dumess, Kildonan and Eddrachillis.

The project is open-ended and information continues to be gathered from new sources. This database was never intended to produce sterile lists of individuals for genealogical purposes.

W.Alex Mackay





**JOHN AND SANDRA MACKAY'S GARDEN AT  
CHAMFLEIRIE STABLES, LINLITHGOW**



John Mackay, Treasurer and Gardener before it all began. In his shorts but pouring rain.

It was very wet but we still had a great turnout, all appropriately dressed. We raised over £1,200.



**A PRESENTATION SHIELD  
PAINTED BY OUR OWN  
HON GRABALHAIR BILL  
MACKAY OF LINLITHGOW**



◆ THE CLAN MACKAY SOCIETY

THE SNAWDOWN HERALD MRS ELIZABETH ROADS LVO

It is a great pleasure for me to be here amongst the Mackays. Sadly I cannot claim any Mackay blood although my mother was a Sinclair whose ancestors moved from Caithness in the 17th century to settle on the shores of Loch Etive.

I hope I can give you a flavour of what I do – both serious and less serious. A herald summoned the faithful to fall down before the golden image set up by Nebuchadnezzar or face the fiery furnace and so some 580 years BC the role of the herald was already the “voice of the king” and in part of my work that duty is still relevant, mostly obviously then proclaiming a General Election.

What does a herald do in the 21st century when it can be seriously debated on television whether Robbie Williams or David Beckham is the greater Briton and has more of a contribution to society than Winston Churchill or Alexander Fleming? Heraldry is not seen as “cool” and we are often asked what the role of the Court of the Lord Lyon is and what place heraldry might have in a modern world. To the historian this is, of course, an irrelevant question, but to many people whose lives are bound by the latest gadget, the most modern news, life in the fast track, a study of one of the more esoteric aspects of life is not seen to be important. Luckily, exist with the principal intention of

Luckily, however, organisations like your own exist with the principal intention of promoting an interest in the history of a particular group of people, or a particular area, and their place within the growth and development of a country. We may be a little country but in many respects we punch way above our weight and heraldry, luckily for me, is one of those areas.

The history, background, development and modern application of heraldry is held in very high regard by those in the worldwide heraldic community. Indeed, heraldry is a growing subject of interest, not necessarily entirely unconnected with the explosion in the growth of the genealogical research industry, and industry it does seem to be now. With that growth in interest in things past people do begin to see that heraldry is actually part of the very fabric of the way of our life. Not only does it identify individuals and organisations but it is all around us, on houses, buildings, churches, gravestones, bookplates, letterheads, all sorts of items such as these.

With a coming together of the international heraldic world there has also been a cross-fertilisation of ideas and knowledge which has done much to promote the recognition of the use of heraldry in a world-wide context. Last year I hosted just such an international



**◆ THE CLAN MACKAY SOCIETY - 2**

Next year in France and in 2016 in Glasgow. If one thinks that the earliest role of a Herald was that of a diplomat, travelling from country to country and forging links, it is pleasing to think that the modern role of the Herald is, in many ways, not dissimilar. I am lucky enough to have among my good friends the State Heralds of all those countries which still have practicing heraldic organisations.

To give you some idea of how well Scottish heraldry and the organisation that we follow here is regarded, one can cite that in 1956, when the South Africans were setting up their Bureau of Heraldry, they looked specifically at how heraldry was organised in Scotland and followed that model. In 1987, when Canada was going down the same route, they too looked to the way in which we practise heraldry to see what it could do for them, and it is interesting that our Register is known as the Public Register of All Arms and Bearings in Scotland and the title in Canada is almost exactly the same, being the Public Register of Arms, Flags and Badges of Canada. But just what does a modern Herald do? There are the obvious outward symbols when we appear on State

and major ceremonial events and this year, like most others, will have its full share of such events. But that is merely the public face of the Herald and it might give some idea of the wide ranging type of questions that come before us to look at some of the letters and questions that are raised each day. There are, of course, purely heraldic questions concerning the granting of Arms. Lyon works under pre-1707 Statutes of the Scots Parliament, the principal Statute being that of 1672, a piece of legislation that is short and clear, not open to misinterpretation, not the result of a knee-jerk reaction, considered over a lengthy period of time and so well drafted that over three hundred years later it is still entirely effective.

That Act established the Public Register of All Arms and Bearings in Scotland and for a coat of arms to be lawful in Scotland it must be on record in that Register. The way in which a Scot acquires Arms is to petition the Lord Lyon for a grant which would be based on the principal Arms of his surname between their coats and there are 17 distinct armigerous Mackays.





## ◆ THE CLAN MACKAY SOCIETY - 3

smarter“” connections and thus comes those descended from the peer's illegitimate daughter, legitimate daughter who disgraced the family by marrying the shepherd, those who ancestor left millions in chancery as they failed to return to Scotland to claim the money. I fear that this is more often than not a dream with little understanding of the nature of Scottish society in the 17th century when younger sons were expected to make their own way and were often tacksmen while their elder brother owned large tracts of lands.

There are those who have great leaps of faith in their genealogical research and assume that because of where their forebear lived the spouse bearing the same surname as the laird must be the daughter of that laird or because only one of the name appears in the old parish registers that must be the person, quite forgetting that these registers are far from complete. To guide and advise means gentle tact tempered with encouragement.

Then there is the Pantone number which must exist for each heraldic colour when the enquirer forgets that heraldry has been

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There are those who have great leaps of faith in their genealogical research and assume that because of where their forebear lived the spouse bearing the same surname as the laird must be the daughter of that laird or because only one of the name appears in the old parish registers that must be the person, quite forgetting that these registers are far from complete. To guide and advise means gentle tact tempered with encouragement. Then there is the Pantone number that exists for each heraldic colour,



## ◆ THE CLAN MACKAY SOCIETY - 4

smarter<sup>""</sup> connections and thus comes those descended from the peer's illegitimate daughter, legitimate daughter who disgraced the family by marrying the shepherd, those who ancestor left millions in chancery as they failed to return to Scotland to claim the money. I fear that this is more often than not a dream with little understanding of the nature of Scottish society in the 17th century when younger sons were expected to make their own way and were often tacksmen while their elder brother owned large tracts of lands.

There are those who have great leaps of faith in their genealogical research and assume that because of where their forebear lived the spouse bearing the same surname as the laird must be the daughter of that laird or because only one of the name appears in the old parish registers that must be the person, quite forgetting that these registers are far from complete. To guide and advise means gentle tact tempered with encouragement.

Then there is the Pantone number which must exist for each heraldic colour when the enquirer forgets that heraldry has been around since the 12th century and

and Pantone numbers for less than one.

All of these are questions which might be thought to be relevant. But you would be amazed at what questions people think are part of our work and upon which they expect us to be experts. They are happy to spend many hours on the telephone, write lengthy letters and expect a lot of information without suggesting they might perhaps add in any way to the coffers. We can always tell when there is some competition going on which includes an heraldic question, or a school project. Only the other day I was telephoned at 8.30 in the morning by someone whose nephew was doing an heraldic project and, although the family was not Scottish, still thought that in some way I would have instant access to the records of the College of Arms and be able to give her all the details that she needed.

There often seems to be a general assumption that the knowledge of 800 years or more of heraldic tradition is literally at one's fingertips a quick telephone call will identify a shield carved in the



◆ THE CLAN MACKAY SOCIETY - 5

are not computers. There are those people who cheerfully believe that all Heralds are experts on heraldry from all over the world and on many occasions I have been asked by somebody quite clearly of Italian, Russian, Croatian or even Japanese origin, to give them chapter and verse on what might be the appropriate Arms for their particular family.

Then there is the press. We are very often the first, maybe the last, port of call for members of the press seeking information on a vague genealogical question between two people. Of course one should not believe all one reads in the press but I was amused to see that because Gordon Brown apparently had farming ancestors in Aberdeenshire and David Cameron had similar ancestors in Inverness-shire at the same time they are now classed as having come from families which were close neighbours and I thought it was only in Australia that 150 miles was considered next door.

Being and in Court the telephone directory as such we are not unused to enquiries from people seeking a details from the Court of Session and people who can be somewhat upset when we indicate that really we

cannot help them at all with the production of a Decree Nisi, or a Declarator of Paternity. But, added to all of these questions which, to an extent, one might say 'Fair enough.' come those questions wh. ich do not really come within our remit at all although they can supply a happy degree of light relief These questions are I am sure vital and fascinating to the enquirer but leave me rather bemused.

I cannot really recommend a good quality hotel for anyone anywhere. I am not knowledgeable about the time of trains from Berwick which allow a caller to arrive in Edinburgh for a meeting at a specific time, not always with us. I am not a travel agent and therefore quite incapable of telling an American how they can visit Aberdeen, Wick, Dumfries, Mull and Edinburgh in three days, in that order, other than to tell them it is probably impossible.

I have been asked where one can buy clotted cream in Yorkshire; if I can check somebody's name on the Register of the first World



◆ **THE CLAN MACKAY SOCIETY - 6**

I love the caller on is the telephone who prefaces their remarks with “This is not really anything to do with heraldry.....”

I like to feel we are approachable and only a few days ago I had someone from Australia on the telephone who happily babbled away for quite a long time about his experiences in the war, his connections with Italians, Germans, his connections with all sorts of other people of whom I wasn't aware, and prefaced it all with ‘I just thought I'd ring up and keep in touch’. It is often difficult to indicate to these people that one is a working office and not there to hear what has been happening to them in their social life.

My response can sometimes be more direct if I am telephoned at home with the introduction ‘I have an heraldic question but I didn't want to disturb you in your office about it’, Then I have been known to say – hopefully under my breath – “I don't ring my doctor at home and say ‘I have got a medical problem and I didn't want to disturb you at your surgery’”, or “I am sure I would not ring my lawyer in the middle of dinner with a legal problem”. But for me the most rewarding work,

aside from the granting of Arms, is for those people who come with a genuine query on the identity of a particular carving, or an early document with Arms, or call as a Chief visiting Scotland from abroad who wishes to discuss the heraldic situation of his children. Such research is not always successful but the genuine enquirer with a genuine problem is always an interesting person to meet with an interesting problem to solve. And those with such a problem always understand the fact that there is no-one else making an enquiry does not mean there is no other work to be done.

From the clan point of view, of course, it is often necessary to explain, though I am sure not to anyone here, that there is no such thing as a clan, or family, coat of arms. The Clan Society may have arms, individual members of the clan may have Arms, the Chief may have Arms, but they are all personal to those specific organisations or people. It is, of course, being in right of the undifferenced Arms which established the right of someone to be Chief of the clan that is the enthusiasm and



◆ **THE CLAN MACKAY SOCIETY - 7**

this is the enormously unique facet of Scottish life in the public eye and, indeed, has led to such an enormous interest unique in the Scottish Diaspora, particularly in North America, in all things Scottish.

While it is legitimate to ask whether someone whose ancestors left these shores generations ago can really be classed as a Scot clan societies would be much poorer if those descendants did not feel ties to Scotland and from a point of view of clans and clan societies they, of

course, add some enormous energy and enthusiasm to the maintenance of what is now a disparate group of people scattered far from their original lands and without the common bond of rallying together under a flag to protect those lands.

May I therefore extend to you my congratulations on this enormously important work which you all do. Like all societies, it is very often the few who undertake the work, but it is

**ELIZABETH ROADS LVO**



**The Honorable  
Elizabeth Fairbairn  
with her daughter,  
and granddaughters  
at the old Baron  
Mackay's family home  
at Ophemert Castle in  
Holland.**

**The Editor apologises  
that the picture is so  
small.**



## VICTORIA & JAMES MACKAY BURSARY FUND SCO 19734

VICTORIA & JAMES MACKAY BURSARY FUND SCO 19734

STATEMENT OF BALANCES AS AT 31 MARCH 2014

	2014 £	2013 £
Bank and cash in hand:		
Opening balances	2792.25	2927.65
Surplus/(deficit) for year	63.47	(135.40)
Closing balances	2855.72	2792.25
Reserves:		
General Funds	2855.72	2792.25
Investments		
1802 M&G Units	1524.14	1514.41
4223 M&G Units	1618.04	1464.73
Closing Balances	5997.90	5771.39
Assets:	Nil	Nil
All funds are restricted		

Approved by the Trustees and signed on their behalf

Signed: .....

Position: .....

Date: .....

STATEMENT OF BALANCES AS AT 31 MARCH 2014





**CLAN MACKAY SOCIETY [ACCOUNTS TO 31 MARCH 2014]**

**CLAN MACKAY SOCIETY VICTORIA & JAMES MACKAY BURSARY FUND**

**Scottish Charity Number: SCO 19736**

**Current Trustees:**

**President:** The Hon Elizabeth Fairbairn MBE

**Vice President:** D. Colin Mackay MBE

**Secretary:** Fiona Smith

**Treasurer:** John S Mackay

**Council:** Shiona Mackay,  
John Mackay, Ghillean Mackay, Sandra Mackay, Willie Mackay,

**Other Trustees during year:** Ian F. Mackay(deceased), Esme Mackay.

**Contact Address:** John S Mackay, The Garden House, 8 Champfleurie Stables,  
Linlithgow, West Lothian, EH49 6NB. Tel: 01506 845476

**Recruitment/Appointment of Trustees:**

All trustees are appointed/reappointed by members at the Clan Mackay Society Annual General Meeting held annually in November.

**Governing Document:** Clan Mackay Society (founded 1908) Constitution and Bye-laws as revised and adopted at the Annual General Meeting of 16th November 1933.

**Charitable Purpose:**

To make education bursaries to applicants named Mackay for their further education.

**Activities and Achievements:**

It should be noted that the current fund comprises the Victoria Mackay Bursary Fund SCO 19734 and James Mackay Bursary Fund SCO 19735. These accounts were merged by resolution of Council and ratified by the appropriate AGM 15 years ago. OSCR confirmed the change of name to the Victoria and James Mackay Bursary Fund registered charity number SCO 19734 in correspondence dated 12 June 2012.

No awards have been made during the financial year.



**CLAN MACKAY SOCIETY [ACCOUNTS TO 31 MARCH 2014]**

**CLAN MACKAY SOCIETY**

**SUMMARY OF ACCOUNTS YEAR TO 31ST MARCH 2014**

General Fund	£3775.95
Benevolent Fund	£2447.17
Victoria & James Mackay Bursary Fund	£5997.90
James Hayward Mackay Fund	£4462.47
Clan Mackay Room at Farr Museum	£1709.92
Helen W/Kenneth Mackay Education Fund	£ 60.00
 Total Assets as at 31 March 2014	 £18,453.41

We the independent examiners appointed by the Clan Mackay Society have examined the accounts of the Treasurer for the period 1 April 2013 to 31 March 2014 and find them correctly stated and sufficiently vouched. We hereby certify the above abstract to be in accordance therewith and correct.

**THE SIGNAL HOUSE AT TONGUE  
MENTIONED IN W. ALEX MACKAY'S  
ARTICLE ON PAGE 10**



**CLAN MACKAY SOCIETY [ACCOUNTS TO 31 MARCH 2014]**

CLAN MACKAY SOCIETY CLAN ROOM FARR MUSEUM

**TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT FOR YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2014**

Scottish Charity Number: SCO 19739  
Current Trustees:  
President: The Hon Elizabeth Fairbairn MBE  
Vice President: D. Colin Mackay MBE  
Secretary: Fiona Smith  
Treasurer: John S Mackay  
Council: Shiona Mackay, John Mackay, Ghillean Mackay, Sandra Mackay, Willie Mackay,  
Other Trustees during year:  
Ian F. Mackay(deceased), Esme Mackay.  
Contact Address: John S Mackay, The Garden House,  
8 Champfleurie Stables, Linlithgow,  
West Lothian, EH49 6NB. Tel: 01506 845476



Recruitment/Appointment of Trustees  
All trustees are appointed/reappointed by members at the Clan Mackay Society Annual General Meeting held annually in November each year.  
Governing Document  
Clan Mackay Society (founded 1908) Constitution and Bye-laws as revised and adopted at the Annual General Meeting of 16.11.33

***Sergeant James Sutherland,  
Adam Sutherland and Neil  
Mackay - See pages 15 and 16***



**CLAN MACKAY SOCIETY [ACCOUNTS TO 31 MARCH 2014]****GENERAL FUND**

Income	£
Subs/donations	440.14
Annual dinner	1566.00
Transfer from Helen Mackay Fund(account closed)	2235.61
Total Income	4241.75
Expenditure	£
Meeting room hire	25.00
Annual dinner	1581.60
Printing Bratach Bhan	241.20
Total Expenditure	1847.80
Surplus for period	2393.95
Add funds as at 1 April 2013	1382.00
Balance	3775.95
Funds as at 31 March 2014 - Bank Current Account	3775.95

**HELEN & W. KENNETH MACKAY EDUCATION FUND 2013-14**

Account closed and monies (£2235.61)  
transferred to the General Fund on 22/8/13

Funds as at 31 March 2014	
– Building Society Account	Nil
189 HBOS Shares at £0.3175	60.00
Total Funds	60.00

◆ **DONATIONS WELCOME**  
**[JOHN S. MACKAY]**

Donations are always welcome to the Clan Society's Bursary and Benevolent Funds and may be made to the Hon Treasurer, John S. Mackay, Four years ago our small Bursaries were amalgamated into one larger bursary given for four years. Send your donations to

John S. Mackay  
The Garden House 8 Champfleurie



**CLAN MACKAY SOCIETY BENEVOLENT FUND**

**TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT FOR YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH\_2014**

Scottish Charity Number: SCO 19733

Current Trustees: President: The Hon Elizabeth Fairbairn MBE

Vice President: D. Colin Mackay MBE

Secretary: Fiona Smith Treasurer: John S Mackay

Council: Shiona Mackay, John Mackay, Ghillelan Mackay,

Sandra Mackay, Willie Mackay,

Other Trustees during year: Ian F, Mackay (deceased), Esme Mackay.

Contact Address: John S Mackay, The Garden House, 8 Champfleurie Stables,  
Linlithgow, West Lothian, EH49 6NB. Tel: 01506 845476

Recruitment/Appointment of Trustees

All trustees are appointed/reappointed by members at the Clan Mackay Society  
Annual General Meeting held annually in November.

Governing Document:

Clan Mackay Society (founded 1908) Constitution and Bye-laws as revised and  
adopted at the Annual General Meeting of 16th November 1933.

Charitable Purpose:

To make benevolent donations to any Mackays in distressed circumstances

Activities and Achievements: No awards were made during the year.

Trustee Remuneration and Expenses: The Trustees do not receive any  
remuneration or expenses.

Reserves:

As a result of the deficit of £17.06 the Society held restricted funds of £816.78  
in the bank treasurer's account, 935.356 units at 84.55p valued at £790.84 in  
M&G Gilt and Fixed Interest Income Fund and 2191.485 units at 38.31p  
valued at £839.55 in the M&G Corporate Bond Fund.

Approved by the Trustees and signed on their behalf

Signed: .....

Position:.....

Date: .....



**◆ CLAN MACKAY SOCIETY [ACCOUNTS TO 31 MARCH 2014]**

**CLAN MACKAY SOCIETY CLAN ROOM FARR MUSEUM**

**TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT FOR YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH\_2014**

Scottish Charity Number: SCO 19739

**Current Trustees:**

President: The Hon Elizabeth Fairbairn MBE

Vice President: D. Colin Mackay MBE

Secretary: Fiona Smith

Treasurer: John S Mackay

Council: Shiona Mackay, John Mackay, Ghilleann Mackay,  
Sandra Mackay, Willie Mackay,

Other Trustees during year: Ian F. Mackay(deceased), Esme Mackay.

**Contact Address:**

John S Mackay, The Garden House, 8 Champfleurie Stables, Linlithgow,  
West Lothian, EH49 6NB. Tel: 01506 845476

**Recruitment/Appointment of Trustees:**

All trustees are appointed/reappointed by members at the Clan Mackay Society  
Annual General Meeting held annually in November.

Clan Mackay Society (founded 1908) Constitution and Bye-laws as revised and  
adopted at the Annual General Meeting of 16th November 1933.

**Charitable Purpose:**

To fund improvements to the Clan Mackay Room in Farr Museum and to make  
donations from time to time to the Farr Museum Trustees for the upkeep of the  
museum.

Activities and achievements There were no awards made during the year.

**Trustee Remuneration and Expenses:**

The Trustees do not receive any remuneration or expenses.

**Reserves:**

There was no income during the year  
so funds remained static at £1,709.92.

Approved by the Trustees and signed on their behalf

Signed: .....Position:.....

The Trustees do not receive any remuneration or expenses.





**♦ CLAN MACKAY SOCIETY [ACCOUNTS TO 31 MARCH 2014]**

**CLAN MACKAY SOCIETY CLAN ROOM FARR MUSEUM**  
continued

Reserves:

There was no income during the year so funds remained static at £1,709.92.

Approved by the Trustees and signed on their behalf

Signed: .....

Position:.....

Date: .....

**CLAN ROOM FARR MUSUEM SCO19739**  
**STATEMENT OF BALANCES AS AT 31 MARCH 2014**

	2013 £	2014 £
Bank and cash in hand:		
Opening balances	1709.92	1709.45
Surplus/(deficit) for year	nil	0.47
Closing balances		
	1709.92	1709.92
Reserves:		
General Funds	1709.92	1709.92
Investments	Nil	Nil
Closing Balances	1709.92	1709.92
Assets:	Nil	Nil
All funds are restricte		



## **THE CLAN MACKAY DINNER 2014**

The Presient's Jacket is designed and made by her. It has Mackay tartan ruffles sewn on the lapels.



Our speaker, Elizabeth Roads is on the left beside the Hon Elizabeth and is wearing is blue top

***Photoes Iain Mackay***



## **DUMFRIES HOUSE 2014**

Willie Mackay his wife and the Hon Elizabeth at Dumfries House on the summer outing

***Photo Sandra Mackay***



### ◆ CHRISTMAS GREETINGS FROM THE CLAN MACKAY SOCIETY

The Editor hopes you enjoy the Christmas Greetings painted by our Hon Grabhalair, Bill Mackay of Linlithgow Bridge



**W Alex Mackay  
of Edinburgh and  
BraeTongue.**

### ◆ THE CLAN MACKAY INSTITUTIONAL MEMORY PROJECT MIMP

We have repeated on page 11 of this edition of the Bratach Bhan an extensive article of our Seannachaidh's explanation of the lengthy work he has completed under the above title. This gives a clear exposition of the valuable research he has been working on for many years for the Society and will be added to the Seannachaidhs' Papers, compiled by his two predecessors, who were his father the late Willie John Mackay and Miss Lily Mackay. These papers are lodged in the National Library of Scotland.



◆ CLAN MACKAY SOCIETY

VISIT TO DUMFRIES HOUSE



OUR GROUP OF VISITORS

Ten of our Clan members had a quite fabulous summer outing to Dumfries House near Cumnock. It was voted one of the best social outings the Society has ever made.



DUMFRIES HOUSE



FIONA AND SHEILA MACKAY SMITH  
WITH ESME MACKAY, IAN'S WIDOW

It was a special delight to have Esme Mackay with us, for it was her late husband Ian who gave so much of his time finding locations summer after summer to give us new views of the Scotland he loved.

It is due to Prince Charles that the house has been beautifully restored for the nation and his energy and belief in conservation has been amply rewarded by this must see restoration of the most splendid house that many of us have ever visited. We warmly recommend a visit to everyone as being very worth while. The inside furnishings are exquisite indeed.



HRH PRINCE CHARLES



**◆ TORRISDALE. NEAR SKERRYAY**



**THE VIEW OVER TORRISDALE BAY FROM COLIN MACKAY'S FAMILY'S CROFT AT MID-TORRISDALE. THE AQUATINT SHOWS THE SALMON FISHING STATION WHICH CLOSED IN 1992 IT WAS PAINTED IN 1823 BY WILLIAM DANIEL THE PRINT BELONGS TO JEMIMA MACKAY OF STRATHNAVER**



***The causeway across the Kyle of Tongue was built in 1971 to cut out a 6 or 7 mile detour around the southern end of the Kyle. The approach to the causeway from Tongue utilised pre-existing roads, albeit with a little re alignment, and it stretches out across a long spit of land over the sands. The causeway is built on a sweeping curve to make the most of the natural landscape of the Kyle. across the main channel.***

